



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mar 15, 2011

Contact:

Cindie Perry, Intergovernmental & Communications Officer
(951) 826-5975

Over 100 Riverside Community Leaders Gather and Offer Support to Sendai Japan

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – On Monday afternoon, a gathering of over 100 business and community leaders convened at Riverside's City Hall to discuss ways to help the City of Sendai, Japan recently devastated in the wake of the worst disaster there since World War II.

Riverside Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge said, "The past exchanges of friendship between Riverside and Sendai have been many, and they have been meaningful. If there ever was a time to extend our hand of friendship, that time is now."

Dr. James Erickson, Director, Center for Philanthropy, La Sierra University, challenged those in attendance at the meeting to call 5 people and ask for their help. Another planning and coordination meeting will take place next Monday, Mar 21, at 3 p.m. at the Riverside's City Council Chambers, 3900 Main Street, Riverside. Monday's meeting will provide another opportunity for the community to offer input on fundraising and other relief efforts.

The City has launched a donation and informational website at www.riversideca.gov/sendairelief. Donations may also be made in person at City Hall in the Mayor's office, 3900 Main Street, 7th Floor, Riverside, CA 92522. Donated funds will be held in a separate account designated for Sendai, Japan to be given directly to officials in Sendai for their recovery efforts.

Dr. Lawrence Geraty, President of the International Relations Council, praised Riverside leaders for joining together to help Riverside's Sister City. Sendai became Riverside's first Sister City on December 10, 1957, making this relationship the oldest in the nation. Over the past five decades there have been museum, citizen, youth, and governmental exchanges between the two cities. In 2007, on the 50th anniversary of the relationship, Sendai gave Riverside the gift of a Japanese Garden at White Park in Downtown Riverside. Riverside's gift to Sendai was a giant orange sculpture that commemorates the citrus heritage of Riverside as well as the historic ties between the two cities.

For additional information, please call (951) 826-5311.